Spaine- Philip IV. 3

THE COPY OF TWO LETTERS SENT FROM *SPAINE:*

CONTAINING
The Kings Cenſure for the rooting out of Vices, Abuſes, and all ſorts of Briberies and corruptions in his *Kingdomes.*

LONDON
Printed by F. K. for *William Lee*, and are to bee ſold at his Shop in Fleetſtreete, *at the golden Bucke, neere Serieants Inne.*
1621.

COPY OF
TWO LETTERS
SENT FROM
SPAIN:
CONTAINING
The Discovery of Iberville and
of Vices, Abuses, and all Lonsdale
Debts and Corruptions in his

LONDON.
1711.

The Copy of the first Letter.

CONsidering the great Obligation that lies vpon me, in that God hath put vpon my ſhoulders the adminiſtration and gouernment of ſo many Kingdomes and Dominions, with the name and ſtile of Catholike King; whereunto appertaineth an ardent zeale and deſire of the publike good: And that the things which augment theſe Obligations, are the examples of Chriſtian piety, which did ſhine ſo glorioufly in the King, my Lord and Father (who is now in glory:) as likewiſe that notable care and diligence in gouernment, together with the ſeuere diſcipline of the King my Father, and my Grandfather: I am reſolued to ſettle a kind of cenſure for the rooting out of

vices, abuſes, and all ſorts of bribery and corruption in theſe my Kingdomes. And to this end, I ordaine and command you, our Preſident, that you firme and order a *Junta*, or *Committee*, of theſe perſons following: of whoſe vertue and zeale I haue a particular truſt and confidence.

1. *Maeſtro Fray Antonio de Soto* Mayor, my Confeſſor.

2. *Don Franciſco de Contreras*, of my Councell.

3. *Don Pedro Porto Carrero*, Conde of *Medelin*, of all other the ancienteſt, Mayor-domo, or Chamberlaine of my Lord the King.

4. *Don Franciſco de Riuera*, Marqueſſe of *Malpica*, a Gentleman of the Chamber of my Father and Grandfather.

5. *Don Diego de Corral*, of my Councell.

6. *Don Franciſco de Seiada*, of my Councell.

7. Father *Hieronymo de Florentia*, my Preacher, or Chaplaine, and Confeſſor of the moſt Illuſtrious Infanta's my brethren.

8. Frier *Juan de Peralta*, Prior of Saint

Lorenzo,

Lorenzo, and Lord Elect of *Tuy*.

9. Doctor *Aluaro de Villegas*, Gouernour of the Arch-bishopricke of *Toledo*.

10. And for Secretary, *Pedro de Contreras*.

And this *Iunta* or meeting, is to be made in your presence, when your great imployments shall not hinder you; and your Sessions shall be euery Sunday, for so holy a day ought not to bee a hinderance to so holy a worke and Christian action. And if you shall thinke it fit, you may appoint some other day in the weeke: And the first Session shall be the first Thursday after Easter: And you shall giue entrance to this worke with a Benediction or thankesgiuing to God, desiring him (by the intercession of his blessed Mother) to indue me with his grace, and to giue supply to my tender yeeres, that I may hit the marke aright, and gouerne my selfe according to his holy Law, and to the generall benefit, and publike good of all my Kingdoms and Dominions. And that this beginning, being giuen to so diuine a Seruice, may the better proceed in ordering the busi-

nesse

neſſe of State, of Warre, of my Treaſurie, which requires ſuch a deale of care and vigilancy.

As for any inſtructions to be giuen to this *Junta*, or Seſsion of yours, it ſeemeth to me that it cannot be committed to any better then the *Committee* it ſelfe: And therefore your firſt Seſsion ſhall be to this effect:

To frame your Inſtructions in the beſt manner you can deuiſe, and to ſend the ſame vnto me, that I may peruſe them, and that I may ſend you them backe againe.

Signed with my hand for your ſecond Seſsion.

Yo el Rey.

The Copy of the ſecond Letter.

SInce I wrote by the laſt Poſt, another Hiſtorie may bee made of the changes and alterations of this Court: From the late Kings Confeſſor they haue taken all his Offices, and quitted him of his rent, which was a good reuenue, amounting to more then 30000. Ducats: Being, beſides, commanded to leaue the Court, and to retire himſelfe to a Monaſtery of his owne Order, ſome 20. leagues diſtant from the Court. As ſoone as he was gone out of *Madrid*, they ſeized vpon all that he had; And iourneying vpon the way, there were certain Officers ſet of purpoſe to regiſter what hee carried with him, and to ſtrip him of all ſaue his apparell and what was needfull for his

iourney. The ſelfe-ſame day they baniſhed the Duke of *Vzeda*, and laid hands on his Secretarie, and likewiſe quitted all his ſeruants and officers from the Palace, which had been placed there by the Duke of *Lerma*.

Moreouer, his Maieſtie publiſhed a Decree or Schedule, giuing commiſsion to *Don Fernando Carillo*, and other Iudges, for examining of all thoſe Mercedes or Fauours, which the deceaſed King had conferred on the Duke of *Lerma*, his ſonnes and ſeruants, to ſee if there were iuſt cauſe, and reaſon ſufficient for the beſtowing the ſaid fauours, and in caſe that they ſhould not find it to bee ſo, then to proceed according to Iuſtice.

Touching the buſineſſe of the Duke of *Oſſuna*, there is no good blood in it, it is all very foule; for they haue laid to his charge the vildeſt and moſt enormous things that euer were heard of, and they haue clapt him vp in priſon, with a very ſtrong gard vpon him, and his buſineſſe (as all the reſt of the like nature) is to bee weighed in the ballance of Iuſtice: for the

King

King hath a purpoſe to repaire the reputation of this Monarchy, which was ready to run to ruine, for want of executing Iuſtice (which is the prop of eſtates.) *Calderon* had beene once more put to the torment, if hee had not freely confeſſed all, which they were willing to worke out of him; Hee himſelfe wrote his owne confeſsion, containing ſeuen ſheetes of paper. It is thought, ere it be long, that they will make a riddance of all thoſe that were the Dukes followers, and more particularly, of thoſe that were his houſhold ſeruants (*eodem pane & aqua viuentes*) that had eaten of his bread, and dranke of his drinke: to ſo bad a paſſe is the promotion of the Duke of *Lerma* now come, *that it is great pitie to ſee how deiectedly they walke vp and downe, like men that are troden vnder foot, neuer to riſe againe.* His Maieſtie hath nominated a *Committee*, for the reforming of all the diſorders and euill cuſtomes of the Court, and once a weeke they meete for the ordering of what is requiſite in this kind: and that buſineſſe is ſo farre aduanced, that they are come to a repartiti-

on, or diuiding of all the ſtreets in *Madrid*, betweene the *Alcaldes*, who goe from houſe to houſe, to know what people lodge therein, and what their buſineſſe is.

Father *Florentia* is of this *Junta* or *Committee*, and carries a great hand, not onely in this, but in all things elſe, and the King is well pleaſed with his counſell and aduice: It is now well knowne that he is Confeſſor to the two Infanta's, *Charles* and *Ferdinand*.

The people are generally well contented with the new King, and the ſpirit and mettle which he ſhewes, and hee leaneth very much to holy and exemplary perſons, in the conferring of Offices, remoouing thoſe from them which are otherwiſe inclined: He hath quitted the abuſe of the Palace, and of the whole Court, of riſing at twelue at noone, and dining at three; riſing himſelfe at ſixe, and giuing audience very early; dining at twelue, and ſupping at eight. It is a thing to be wondered at, to ſee how conuerſant hee is in buſineſſe, as likewiſe to conſider the wiſe and diſcreet anſweres that come from him.

On Tuesday last the Kings Funerals were solemnized in the Monasterie of S. *Jeronymo*, whither he had withdrawne himselfe since the decease of his Father. *Padre Florentia* (as his manner is) made a most excellent Sermon: The Tombe was wonderfull sumptuous, and cost many Ducats, and there were 3000. lights and torches: At the Masse, there assisted aboue twentie Bishops, and many other Grandes were in that solemnitie, very worthy and seeming, and too long the recounting.

THere came now newes hither to *Madrid*, of a very disasterous accident which happened at *Granado*, vpon Saint *James* his day last; for they, hauing deferred the proclaiming of the new King vntill then, the more to solemnize it vpon their Patrons Feast day, there was such a number of people gathered together, that in their Market-place, a new house, being ouercharged with people (that came to see the sight) fell downe,

and killed to the number of 300. persons, being all, or for the most part, women; and maimed and lamed neere as many more. This we receiued from an English Gentleman that liues there, that was a spectator of this lamentable chance.

FINIS.

DEC 27